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HUNT TRIAL TO GO TO JURY
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MIAMI

Closing arguments were scheduled today in the libel suit filed against the right-wing publication The Spotlight by Watergate conspirator and former CIA agent E. Howard Hunt.

Hunt is suing the weekly tabloid, operated by the Washington-based Liberty Lobby, for an Aug. 14, 1978 article that linked him to the death of President John F. Kennedy.

The \$500 article written by Victor Marchetti, another former CIA agent, said a former mistress of Cuban President Fidel Castro could place Hunt in Dallas the day before Kennedy died and a 1966 CIA memo indicated Hunt was there when Kennedy was shot.

A deposition, taken Jan. 11 in New York City by Marita Lorenz, Castro's former lover, was read Monday in a Miami federal courtroom. Lorenz refused to testify in person because she was afraid to come to Miami, defense attorney Mark Lane said. She said she had been in hiding in fear of her life ever since the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination of Kennedy.

Hunt denied Monday that he had met Lorenz in Miami in 1960 or in Dallas three years later as she claimed.

"I never saw her on that date (Nov. 21, 1963) or on any other date," he said.

Lorenz, who refused to give her address or place of employment, claimed she has worked for the FBI, CIA and the New York City police department.

In the deposition she said she met Hunt for the first time in 1960, in Miami. She described Hunt as a "paymaster" for the CIA. She also claimed she met Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of Kennedy, in Miami that year.

Lorenz said in the deposition she was working for the CIA when she rode in a car Nov. 20, 1963 from Miami to Dallas with people who included Frank Sturgis, also a former CIA agent and a convicted Watergate burglar. She said Oswald was in a following car carrying weapons and she was told the nature of the trip was confidential.

When the group arrived in Dallas on Nov. 21, she said they met Hunt in a motel room and his CIA codename was "Edwardo." She said Hunt gave Sturgis an envelope with money inside.

"He gave it to 'Fiorini' (Sturgis' code name)," she said. "Frank pulled out the money and flipped it and said 'that is enough' then folded it and put it in his pocket."

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The next day Kennedy was killed. She said Sturgis later told her that his money exchange with Hunt involved Kennedy's death. She said Sturgis also told her he was near where the shooting took place.

Hunt said he had never paid Sturgis for gun running operations at any time.

'No sir, I wasn't a paymaster of that sort.'

Lane, author of the best-seller 'Rush to Judgment,' which criticized the Warren Commission's assassination report, has been claiming that Hunt chose to sue the weekly tabloid The Spotlight because it did not have the resources to properly defend itself.

Hunt was awarded \$650,000 when the case first went to a jury, but that verdict was overturned on appeal and a new trial was ordered because a judge's instructions to the jury were flawed.